

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) An impression coping system for use in pick-up and transfer type impression moulding techniques, said system comprising:

~~a single-sized~~ not more than one implant fastener adapted to engage with an implant; and

a single-sized coping component which engages with the implant fastener and which is adapted to support an impression material,

wherein the implant fastener is provided with a mountable and removable extension means which, in use, is sufficiently dimensioned so as to act as an extension of the implant fastener and protrude through the impression material during pick-up type impression moulding techniques, and

wherein the implant fastener is further provided with an removable spacer element to space the implant from the implant fastener during transfer type impression moulding techniques.

2. (Previously presented) An impression coping system according to claim 1, wherein the implant fastener is provided at an implant engaging end with a screw thread.

3. (Previously presented) An impression coping system according to claim 2, wherein the implant fastener is a coping screw.

4. (Previously presented) An impression coping system according to claim 1, wherein the extension means is adapted to form a snug fit on the external surface of the body of the fastener.

5. (Previously presented) An impression coping system according to claim 4, wherein the extension means comprises a tubular sleeve.

6. (Previously presented) An impression coping system according to claim 5, wherein the tubular sleeve is profiled.
7. (Previously presented) An impression coping system according to claim 5, wherein the tubular sleeve is adapted to be cut to an appropriate length.
8. (Previously presented) An impression coping system according to claim 5, wherein the tubular sleeve comprises a plastics sleeve.
9. (Previously presented) An impression coping system according to claim 1, wherein the extension means is adapted to stay in the impression material after impression.
10. (Previously presented) An impression coping system according to claim 1, wherein the extension means is adapted to stay on the implant fastener and thereby is removed from the impression material after impression taking.
11. (Previously presented) An impression coping system according to claim 1, wherein the extension means is pre-mounted by the manufacturer and if needed adjusted by the clinician prior to impression taking.
12. (Previously presented) An impression coping system according to claim 1, wherein the implant fastener is provided with a fastening region for the spacer element.
13. (Previously presented) An impression coping system according to claim 12, wherein the fastening region is of narrower diameter than the body of the fastener.
14. (Previously presented) An impression coping system according to claim 12, wherein the fastening region is the implant engaging end provided with a screw thread.
15. (Previously presented) An impression coping system according to claim 12, wherein the fastening region is provided with a shoulder.

16. (Previously presented) An impression coping system according to claim, 1 wherein the spacer element is adapted to be removed by a conventional dentistry implement or finger.

17. (Previously presented) An impression coping system according to 16, wherein the spacer is only removed to decrease the height of the screw shaft after impression taking and prior to reinsertion of the impression coping in the impression material for the making of a master cast for the transfer type application, thereby increasing the accuracy of the transfer type impression application.

18. (Previously presented) An impression coping system according to claim 1, wherein the spacer element is an annular ring.

19. (Previously presented) An impression coping system according to claim 1, wherein the spacer element is an open or closed ring, tube or cylinder.

20. (Previously presented) An impression coping system according to claim 18, wherein the spacer element is an annular split ring.

21. (Previously presented) An impression coping system according to claim 1, wherein the spacer element is placed around the screw neck under the screw shaft of the impression coping screw.

22. (Previously presented) An impression coping system according to claim 1, wherein the height of the spacer element has a larger height than an inner tool connection of implant fastener.

23. (Previously presented) An impression coping system according to claim 1, wherein the spacer element comprises a plastics material.

24. (Previously presented) An impression coping system according to claim 1, wherein the spacer exhibits elastic properties such that the height of the spacer depends on torque levels the spacers thus being unnecessary to remove, said torque levels being

higher for the attachment for model making on the implant analogue than for model taking on the implant.

25. (Previously presented) An impression coping system according to claim 1, wherein the coping component comprises an annular sleeve.

26. (Previously presented) An impression coping system according to claim 25, wherein the annular coping sleeve comprises a slidable sleeve.

27. (Previously presented) An impression coping system according to claim 26 wherein the annular coping sleeve is rotatably slidable.

28. (Previously presented) An impression coping system according to claim 25, wherein the coping sleeve is adapted to be supported by a surface of the implant.

29. (Previously presented) An impression coping system according to claim 25, wherein the implant is provided with attachment means having a shoulder for supporting the coping sleeve.

30. (Previously presented) An impression coping system according to claim 25, wherein the diameter of the coping sleeve is substantially the same as the diameter of the implant.

31. (Previously presented) An impression coping system according to claim 1, wherein the spacer element is pre-mounted by the manufacturer and removed by the clinician or dental technician or any other suitable person after impression taking.

32. (Currently amended) A method of making an open tray dental impression using the impression coping system for use in pick-up and transfer type impression moulding techniques, the system comprising a single-sized implant fastener adapted to engage with an implant, and a single-sized coping component which engages with the implant fastener and which is adapted to support an impression material, wherein the implant fastener is provided with a mountable and removable extension means, which, in use is sufficiently

dimensioned so as to act as an extension of the implant fastener and protrude through the impression material during pick-up type impression moulding techniques, the method comprising the steps of;

- (i) placing a coping component on the implant fastener;
- (ii) engaging the fastener and coping component with an implant by means of a screw thread;
- (iii) if the extension means is not already pre-mounted by manufacturer, placing the extension means on the fastener and/or coping component;
- (iv) moulding an impression material around the coping component and the extension means;
- (v) disengaging the coping component from the implant by unscrewing the fastener screw;
- (vi) removing the impression moulded material and the coping component, fastener and extension means, which are now attached thereto;
- (vii) fitting an implant analogue to the coping component and the fastener screw; and
- (viii) fabricating a master cast from the impression moulding containing the implant analogue positioned on the coping component and completing the transfer of the implant position from the oral cavity to a model of the oral cavity.

33. (Previously presented) A method of making a closed tray dental impression using the impression coping system for use in pick-up and transfer type impression moulding techniques, the system comprising a single-sized implant fastener adapted to engage with an implant, and a single-sized coping component which engages with the implant fastener and which is adapted to support an impression material, wherein the implant fastener is provided with a mountable and removable extension means which, in use, is sufficiently dimensioned so as to act as an extension of the implant fastener and protrude through the impression material during pick-up type impression moulding techniques, and wherein the implant fastener is further provided with a removable spacer element to space the implant from the implant fastener during transfer type impression moulding techniques, the method comprising the steps of:

- (i) placing a coping component on an implant fastener;

- (ii) engaging the fastener, which is fitted with a spacer element, with an implant;
- (iii) moulding an impression material around the coping component;
- (iv) removing the impression moulded material;
- (v) removing the spacer element from the fastener and fitting the fastener and coping component to the implant analogue prior to refitting the coping component engaged with the implant analogue into the socket of the impression material, by pushing the coping component and turning it to the correct position determined by positioning means on the coping component; and
- (vi) fabricating a master cast from the impression moulding containing the implant analogue positioned on the coping component and completing the transfer of the implant position from the oral cavity to a model of the oral cavity.

34. (Currently amended) A dental impression coping system for co-operating with an impression material to take an impression for making a model of a region in a mouth adjacent to an aperture in gingiva which exposes an implant that is installed in bone for pick-up type and transfer type impression moulding techniques, said system comprising:

an impression coping system ~~according to claim 1~~ comprising:

not more than one implant fastener adapted to engage with an implant; and

a single-sized coping component which engages with the implant fastener and which is adapted to support an impression material,

wherein the implant fastener is provided with a mountable and removable extension means which, in use, is sufficiently dimensioned so as to act as an extension of the implant fastener and protrude through the impression material during pick-up type impression moulding techniques,
and

wherein the implant fastener is further provided with an removable spacer element to space the implant from the implant fastener during transfer type impression moulding techniques;

a non-rotational fitting for mating with a corresponding fitting of the implant;

an outer surface having a transgingival section configured to fit within said aperture and a supragingival section for embedment in said impression material, said

supragingival section having at least one part with a non-circular cross-sectional, said impression coping capable of being transferred back into said impression material after said impression is taken if using transfer type impression moulding technique;

~~a means intended for fastening or clamping said impression coping to the implant;~~

said fastener comprises an attachment means intended for fastening said impression coping to the implant;

an inner surface defining a passage that is generally aligned with the implant for receiving said attachment means intended for fastening said impression coping to the implant; and

said extension means comprising a superstructure or extender able to be mounted in contact with said attachment means or said impression coping providing a means to access said attachment means through said impression material if using a pick-up impression moulding technique.

35. (Previously presented) An impression coping system according to claim 1, wherein the implant fastener or attachment means relies upon friction, elastics or mechanical interlocking.

36. (Previously presented) An impression coping of claim 1, wherein the outer surface of the coping component is provided with a plurality of recesses.

37. (Previously presented) An impression coping according to claim 1, wherein a spacer attached to a screw can retain the extension means to an inner recess of the impression coping during carrying, placing and removal from the implant or implant analogue.

38. (Previously presented) A method for creating a model of a mouth having a dental implant that is installed therein and includes a fitting of an impression coping to an implant, said method comprising the steps of:

installing an impression coping on the implant with a screw by screwing by hand a superstructure, extender, or screw head, or a screw driver, said impression coping including at least one first circumferential recess around a longitudinal axis and at least one second longitudinal impression interlocking recess;

removing the superstructure or extender prior to model taking if using a transfer type application;

applying impression material into the mouth and around said at least one first and at least one second interlocking recess of said coping, said second recess having a predetermined angular orientation with respect to said impression material after being applied around said coping;

if using the transfer type application, removing said impression material from the mouth and then removing the impression coping from the implant by unscrewing the screw by hand or by screw driver followed by mounting the implant analogue on the impression coping after having removed the spacer on the impression coping screw and subsequently reinserting said impression coping into an opening within said impression material;

if using the pick-up type application, removing said impression coping from the implant by unscrewing the screw through an access means, or through the superstructure or extender, followed by moving said impression material and impression coping arrangement from the mouth and mounting the implant analogue on the impression coping;

and casting the model irregardless of pick-up or transfer type impression technique.

39-53. (Cancelled)

54. (Previously presented) A method of making an open tray dental impression using an impression coping system for use in pick-up and transfer type impression moulding techniques, the system comprising a single-sized implant fastener adapted to engage with an implant, and a single-sized coping component which engages with the implant fastener and which is adapted to support an impression material, wherein the implant fastener is provided with a mountable and removable extension means which, in use, is sufficiently dimensioned so as to act as an extension of the implant fastener and protrude through the impression material during pick-up type impression moulding techniques, and wherein the implant fastener is further provided with a removable spacer element to space the implant from the implant fastener during transfer type impression moulding techniques, the method comprising the steps of:

- (i) placing a coping component on the implant fastener, the fastener being

equipped with a spacer;

- (ii) engaging the fastener and coping component with an implant;
- (iii) if the extension means is not already pre-mounted by the manufacturer, placing the extension means on the fastener and/or coping component;
- (iv) moulding an impression material around the coping component and the extension means;
- (v) disengaging the coping component from the implant by unscrewing the screw;
- (vi) removing the impression moulded material carrying the coping component, fastener and extension means;
- (vii) fitting the implant analogue to the coping component and the screw; and
- (viii) fabricating a master cast from the impression moulding containing the implant analogue positioned on the coping component and completing the transfer of the implant position from the oral cavity to a model of the oral cavity.

55. (Previously presented) A method of making an open tray dental impression using an impression coping system for use in pick-up and transfer type impression moulding techniques, the system comprising a single-sized implant fastener adapted to engage with an implant, and a single-sized coping component which engages with the implant fastener and which is adapted to support an impression material, wherein the implant fastener is provided with a mountable and removable extension means which, in use, is sufficiently dimensioned so as to act as an extension of the implant fastener and protrude through the impression material during pick-up type impression moulding techniques, and wherein the implant fastener is further provided with a removable spacer element to space the implant from the implant fastener during transfer type impression moulding techniques, the method comprising the steps of:

- (i) placing a coping component on the implant fastener;
- (ii) engaging the fastener and coping component with an implant;
- (iii) if the extension means is not already pre-mounted by the manufacturer, placing the extension means on the fastener and/or coping component and adjusting the height of the extension means;
- (iv) moulding an impression material around the coping component and the extension means;

(v) disengaging the coping component from the implant by unscrewing the screw:

(vi) removing the impression moulded material carrying the coping component, fastener and extension means;

(vii) fitting the implant analogue to the coping component and the screw; and

(viii) fabricating a master cast from the impression moulding containing the implant analogue positioned on the coping component and completing the transfer of the implant position from the oral cavity to a model of the oral cavity.